

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATE AND TAPESTRY
OF THE VINTNERS' COMPANY.

BY GEORGE RUSSELL FRENCH.

All the Livery Companies of London have lost many of the fine specimens of plate which formerly used to decorate their tables and sideboards. The strong hand of power often required, under the specious title of "benevolences," large sums of money from the wealthy and even poorer Corporations, and to meet these exactions they were obliged to sell or pawn their much-prized vessels of gold and silver. Their records show not only the great quantity of such articles once in their possession, but also the mournful details of their loss, and it is very sad to read the account of the painful sacrifices to which the loyal citizens submitted, in order to comply with the Sovereign's demands. An extract from the History of the Ironmongers' Company, by Mr. John Nicholl, F.S.A. (2d. edit. 1866, p. 51,) will serve to illustrate the position of all the Companies.

"1523. Kyng Harey the viijth in the xiiijth yere off hys rayn borowd off the site (City) of London xx m li. off the whyche som off money he coñandyd to have all the money and platt that was belonging to every hawlle or craft in London, to the ententt that the money myght be lentt wth the more esse, at the whyche comandementt he hade all oure money belonging to oure hawlle, that was the sm^c of xxv li. xiiij d. and also was solde at thatt tyme theys passell off platt here aftyr foloyng —"

An inventory of the plate which had to be sold is then given, and also the names of such members of the Company "off the valewe namyd off xx li. and above, lentt to the kyng the same tyme, as here aftyr folowyth," &c.

Were it not that it was a serious matter for the contributors to these forced loans, one would be inclined to smile at the

misplaced terms "borrowed," and "lent," in these transactions for the royal Henry was evidently of the opinion held by the famous swaggerer Pistol, "Base is the slave that pays," a feeling also entertained by Sir John Falstaff—"I do not like that paying back, 'tis a double labour."

In 1558 King Henry's eldest daughter, Queen Mary, raised a large sum of money from the City Corporations, and Mr. Herbert, in his History of the Livery Companies, observes:—"From this period the extracting of money from the trading Corporations became a regular source of supply to Government, and was prosecuted during Elizabeth's and succeeding reigns with a greediness and injustice that scarcely left those societies time to breathe."*

We can judge, to some extent, of the loss which archæology has suffered in the sacrifices of plate, by the specimens which still remain. In the inventories of the various Companies there is mention of vast quantities of vessels of all kinds; there we are told of mazer-bowls, with their quaint devices, and black letter inscriptions, the most interesting of all mediæval relics; the "standing nuts," with their curious mountings in gold or silver; the "salers," or salts, which were so important a feature at all feasts; the "parcel-gilt goblets," such as Dame Quickly mentions; the tall "loving cups," inscribed with the affectionate language of living or deceased members to their fraternities; the capacious tankards, and mighty wassail bowls; the spoons, adorned with figures of the Apostles, or the busts of maidens; the basins and ewers, embossed or chased with an infinite variety of graceful design and admirable workmanship; and all parted with for the price of the mere metal, and nearly all of them consigned to the furnace. Some few, however, were sold to private purchasers, as every now and then a specimen of old plate, once belonging to a Livery Company, makes its appearance.

The Vintners' Company did not escape the common fate of the civic bodies, and therefore they do not retain many early examples of plate.

By a fortunate discovery made by Mr. Thomas Milbourn, *Honorary Secretary*, of a Book of Accounts of the Masters and

* Vol. i. p. 119.

Wardens of the Company from 23 Henry VII. to the 14 Henry VIII.* a document which prior to the meeting of this Society was quite unknown to the Company of Vintners, the following extracts from which he has placed at my entire disposal, I am thus enabled to lay before the reader a most interesting account of the plate belonging to the Company at that early period, and further to show how the greater part of it was disposed of.

The first mention of plate worthy of notice occurs in a very long list of the accounts of John Scrace, James Spencer, Richard Gyttons, and Richard Hilton, masters and wardens for three years, viz. from 11 November 1513 to 11 November 1516, and is as follows:—

- fol. 36^b. Item, paid to Xp̄ofer Terry, goldsmyth, for the making of two gilte saltcs weying iiij^{xx}. xvij. vnccs di. at xx d. the vncc making and gilding. Summa viij li. ijs. vj d. Wherof paid in one vncc and di. that he had more than we receyved v s.
 And so paid to hym in argent . . . vij li. xvij s. vj d.

The next entry occurs in the accounts of Robert Scras, Henry Pedyll, Robert Barker, and Rychard Eddys, masters and wardens, being their accounts for three years, viz. from the 11 November 1519 to 11 November 1522.

- fol. 70^b. Item, paid to m^r Cawntons seruant the xi. day of No- uembre anno xvcxxj for his labour for bryngyng of the cupp to our hall that my lady Thurstone gauc vs . . . xij d.

At the end of the book occurs the following account or inventory of the plate:—

- fol. 73. Here ffolowythe the parsellys and weyght of all suche plate, gylt and parsellys gylt, as belongythe to the ffelyshyp of Vyntners gevyn by dyvers of the same ffelyshyp:

Fyrst a standyng gylt cup with a cover with a may- dyn hed in the bothom weying . . . xxiiij oz. j q^t.

(d)

[Sold in 1548.]

* Egerton MS. Brit. Mus. No. 1143.

- Item, a standyng gylt cup with a cover chasyd skald-
wyse, weyng xxxj oz. di.
(d) [Sold in 1548.]
- Item, a Reynyshe flatt gylt, with a cover weyng
xxxiiij oz. di. q^t.
(d) [Sold in 1545.]
- Item, a standyng gylt cup with a cover with the hand
and perlys hangyng abowt the cover, weyng . . . lix oz. di.
(d) [Sold in 1545.]
- Item, a flat gylt cup with a cover, the cover graven,
weyng xiiij oz. 3 q^t.
(e) [Sold for £2 14s.]
- Item, a standyng gylt cup with a cover, playne,
weyng xxv oz. di.
(a) [Sold for £5.]
- Item a standyng gylt cup with a cover, and a colom-
bynde in the top chasyd rosewyse, weyng xxij oz. di.
(d) [Sold in 1548.]
- Item, a standyng gylt cup with a cover, and a George
on the top, weyng xlj oz. di.
(d) [Sold, no date given.]
- Item, a standyng gylt cup with a cover, with a grene
garlond in the bothom, weyng xxv oz.
(a) [Sold for £5 1s. 6d.]
- Item, a standyng gylt cup with a cover, and a mar-
chantes marke in the bothom, weyng xxxiiij oz. j q^t.
(d) [Sold in 1548.]
- Item, a powder box gylt, weyng xiiij oz. j q^t.
(d) [Sold in 1548.]
- Item, vj. gylt spones with grapys on the knoppys,
weyng ix oz.
(d) [Sold in 1545.]
- Item, a box gylt and enameld to put in money, weyng liiiij oz. di.
(a) [Sold for £10 17s.]
- Item, a gret gylt bolle with a cover, chasyd, with a
shephard in the bothom, weyng lxx oz.
(d) [Sold, no date given.]

- Item, iij gylt saltys with oon cover weyng clix oz. di.
[Sold, no date given.]
- Item, a standing gylt cup with a cover, chasyd with
fflowrys, weyng xxix oz. di.
(c) [Sold for £6 7s. 10 d.]
- Item, a standyng gylt cup with a cover, chasyd and
and enameld in the bothom, weyng xxx oz.
(d) [Sold, no date given.]
- Item, a standyng gylt cup, with a cover, and m^r John
Kyrkby's mark in the bothom, weyng xlj oz.
(d) [Sold, no date given.]
- Item, a lytyll standyng gylt cup with a cover, weyng xiiij oz.
(a) [Sold for £2 13s. 0d.]
- Summa of ounces vijcxxx di.
and di. q^t at iij s. viij d. cxxxiiij li. xvij s. xj ob.

Here ffolowythe the plat parsellys gylt.

- Fyrst, a standyng cup, with a cover, with m^r Kyrkby's
mark in the bothom, weyng xxxviiij oz.
(b) [Sold for £6 19s. 4d.]
- Item, a standyng cup, with a cover, wrythyn, weyng xxv oz.
(e) [Sold for £4 11s. 8d.]
- Item, a standyng cup, with a cover, standyng upon
lyons, weyng xxxiiij oz.
(b) [Sold for £6 4s. 8d.]
- Item, a parys pece without a cover, weyng xvj oz. di. q^t.
(b) [Sold for £2 19s. 1d.]
- Item, vj bollys with a cover, and the Vyntners' armys
in the bothom, weyng lxxiiiij oz. di.
(d) [Sold in 1545.]
- Item, vj bollys, with a cover, with a marchantes mark
in the bothom, weyng iiij^{xx} vij oz.
(d) [Sold in 1545.]
- Item, an hy goblet, with a cover, standyng apon lyons,
weyng xiiij oz.
(c) [Sold for £2 11s. 4d.]

Item, oon dossen spones weyng xij oz.
 (b) [Sold for £2 4s. 5d.]

Summa of oz. iij c. di. and
 di q^t. at iij s. iiij d. 1 li. ij s. j d.

Here ffolowythe Nottys.

fol. 73^b.

Fyrst a Nott of Mothur of perylle, gylt, with a cover,
 weyng xxvj oz. iij q^t d.
 (d) [Sold in 1548.]

Item, a paynted Nott gylt, with a cover, weyng xvj oz.
 (e) [Sold for £2. 2s. 8d.]

Item, a black Nott, gylt, with a cover, weyng xxxij oz.
 (e) [Sold for £4 5s. 4d.]

Summa of oz. lxxiiij iij q^t.
 and di. at ij s. viij d. ix li. xix s. viij d.

Here ffolowythe Masers.

Fyrst a standyng maser, gylt, with a cover, and the
 Trenyte in the bothom, weyng xli oz.
 (d) [Sold in 1548.]

Item, a standyng maser gylt, with a paynted cover,
 weyng xiiij oz.
 (d) [Sold in 1548.]

Summa of oz. liiij.
 at ijs. v li. viij s.

Summa that owre plate
 amontythe to c iiij^{xx} xix li. viij s. viij d. ob

Item, the redy money that was in our Hall at that tyme
 was xxxv li. xj s. vij d.

Summa of bothe plate
 and redy money ij c xxxv li. iij d. ob.

Thys plat and money was rated and valuyd after the rate
 above wretyn ffor the payment of the Kinges money for the gret
 lone that the Kyng had of the Cetye. In July anno xv c xxij.
 Then beyng Mayre of London Maystur Mylborne.*

After which follows an account of how the payments were made
 to "Edmond Pckham," which payments amounted to the sum of

* For an account of Sir John Milbourne, Lord Mayor, see pp. 138-152 of this volume.

£224 2s. 4d. Part of this sum appears to have been borrowed on the plate, viz.—

Of “ Mr. Sandell ” on plate £46 6 4
 Of “ John Scras ” on plate 90 0 0
 And of “ Rychard Eddys ” do. 12 0 0

fol. 74.

Of which plate beforementioned those articles marked (a) were sold to Thomas Calton, goldsmith, and the sum received for same amounted to £23 11s, 6d.

The plate parcel gilt was also sold, see those items marked (b), and produced £21 10s. 8d., in which amount is included the following item, which appears in the list of plate for the first time: “ a broken cup with a cover, that was George Gyrllys, weyng xvij oz. j q^t. at iij s. viij d.” which sold for £3 3s. 2d.; the other items, marked (c), were sold for £22 12s. 10d. The total amount sold being £67 15s. 2d.

After which is entered:

Here ffolowythe plate lately bought, and plate that hathe been gevyn to the plase sythe the plate to-fore was valuyd, to paye the Kyng.

fol. 74^b.

Plate Bought.

Bought of John Palterton, goldsmythe, in Aprell anno xvcxxvij. Item, j dossen spones with lyons on the knoppys, gylt, weyng xv oz. j q^t. at iiij s. iiij d. le oz.

Summa iij li. vj s. j d.

(d) [Sold, no date given.]

Item, j dossen spones with maydyn heydys on the knoppys, gylt, weyng xiiij oz. di. at iiij s. iiij d. le oz.

(d) [Sold, no date given.]

Summa ij li. xviiij s. vj d.

Summa vj li. iiij s. vij d.

Bought of Raufe Lathom, goldsmythe, the same tyme, a gylt pott with a cover, to drink ale in, weyng ix oz. iij q^t at v s. iiij d. le oz. . . . Summa ij li. xij s.

(d) [Sold in 1545.]

Bought of Thomas Calton, goldsmythe, the same tyme, xix potts to drynk ale in, weyng all iiij^{xx} xvj. oz. j q^t.

at iiij s. j d. Summa xix li. xiiij s.

(d) [Sold, no date given.]

The total of plate bought being £28 9s. 7d., and the amount sold £67 15s. 2d., of which was paid "m^r John Sandell" for redeeming of the plate that was in his hands, £40, the Company in consequence paying 14s. 5d. more than received.

After this follows an "account of the plate given by Mr. John Scras," the 17 day of April, anno 1526.

Item, ij saltys gylt, with oon cover, weyng xxxvij oz.
xxiiij oz. Summa of bothe lx oz. at
(d) [Sold, no date given.]

Item, a Not of Jasper, gylt, with a cover, weyng xxv
oz. at
(d) [Sold in 1545.]

Item, a standyng gylt cup with a cover, and on the
cover a tone lying in a garden among grapys, the
whyche was gevyn by m^r John hatfyld and hys wyf,
weyng xxx oz. j q^t.
(d) [Sold, no date given.]

fol. 75.

Then follows a list of plate in the Hall in April 1527, which comprised all those articles marked (d) in the foregoing lists.

In fol. 75^b and 76 occurs a list of plate sold in the year 1545, and also in 1548, which it will be seen that I have marked as sold in the foregoing lists to avoid occupying the space of these pages needlessly.

The two items following are in the list of plate marked as sold, and I have noted them, as they do not appear before in any part of the account.

Item, a standyng gilt cupp with a cover, and a ffawcon on the
topp, of the gyfte of m^r Richard Hilton, weyng* xxix oz. di.
[Sold in 1548.]

fol. 76.

Item, a payr of Lotting tables, garneshid with sylver,
and apen of sylver, of the gyft of m^r Kyrbye*.

And, in conclusion, on fol. 76, is set forth that there remained no more of all the parcels of plate, before particularly described, except thirteen ale pots, parcel gilt, weighing 66 oz. as it ap-

* In a different handwriting from that of the other portions of the list.

peared in the last account. And all such plate as the wardens received in their time at the hands of the Renter-warden, are described to have been employed in buying of lands for the use of the Vintners' Hall, as it appears in their account in November 1548.

Of the very considerable quantity of plate represented in the foregoing lists, nothing has been preserved, and the two earliest specimens in the present collection belong to the sixteenth century.

The first of these is a COCOA-NUT CUP, of the date 1518; it is $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches high and 4 inches in diameter, on a circular foot. It is mounted in silver gilt; round the Nut are gothic vertical bands connecting the lip with the foot, divided into small panels, ornamented with pine-apples, a dolphin, a mermaid, and cross-keys. The lower part of the foot has a battlement, and small Gothic tracery. The plate mark is the Lombardic capital A for the year 1518, like that on a salt belonging to the Ironmongers' Company, and the character of the two articles is similar.

The next example, in point of date, is a DELFT TANKARD, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, globular in form, with an upright neck; it is mounted in silver-gilt; a narrow silver collar round the lower part of the neck is connected with the foot by three vertical bands; the handle is engraved with foliage, and on the square part, at the top, in capital letters, THINK AND THANK, with the date 1563; a broad collar round the neck is engraved with sixteenth-century panels, and inscribed, THANK DAVID GITTING FOR $\frac{18}{Y}$; the cover is embossed with fruit, and on a circular boss on the top is a shield, enamelled with the arms of the Vintners' Company, viz. Sable, a chevron between three tuns argent, impaling a merchant's mark, D. G. The purchase knob is formed of two melons, with the stalks twisted together. The plate mark is the small black letter ϵ of the year 1562.

The next examples belong to the seventeenth century. A circular SILVER BEAKER, 7 inches high, and 4 inches diameter, standing on a round foot, ornamented with a gadroon border; this vessel is engraved with seventeenth-century scrolls and flowers, and is inscribed, "C. R. M. R. *The gift of Antonie Pawle, marchant, to his Maiesties Wine Porters, 1638.*"

A plain round SILVER WINE CUP, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches



THE MILKMAID CUP.

diameter; the bowl is of very taper form, on a baluster stem, and inscribed—"C. R. *The Gift of m^r Antony Palle, marchand, to his Majesties Wine Portters, 1638.*" The plate mark is the small Italic letter *q* of the year 1633, which date is on the cup.

A very similar CUP, of SILVER, but rather larger; it bears the same inscription, and is marked with the Court-hand letter *a* of the year 1638, which date is on the cup.

The next specimen is a most interesting example of the quaint fashions which were sometimes adopted for drinking vessels, and in this instance no doubt much merriment has resounded through the banqueting room from its use. It is called "THE MILKMAID CUP," and it consists of a small WINE CUP, silver-gilt, in the shape of a female, whose petticoat forms the cup; she wears an apron with an enriched border, and an under-skirt, which is pounced over to represent embroidery; also an outer robe, open in front, thrown back, and fastened behind with a clasp; a tight-laced bodice, *tight-fitting sleeves with deep ruffs, and her hair dressed in the style of the period.* This female holds above her head a small vessel in form of a pail, on the underside of which is a Tudor rose; this pail is hung on pivots let into scrolls from the hands of the figure. The whole forms a double cup, and is a trick, for, on the figure being inverted, both the cups are filled with wine, and care must be taken, when a person is drinking off the contents of the larger vessel, not to spill any wine from the smaller one. Every new member, on his admission to the Company, is expected to prove his skill by drinking from this Cup successfully. There is no plate mark, but it belongs to the seventeenth century, when such vessels were not uncommon.

A very good example of "the double cup," similar to "the Milkmaid Cup," is in the possession of Lady Sophia Des Vœux. In this example, on the small cup is inscribed:—

"When riches faile, friends groe scant;
No cut to unkindness, no woe to want."

And on the larger vessel are the following lines:—

"Hands of, I pray you, handle not me,
For I am blind, and you can see.
If you love me lend me not;
For fear of breaking, bend me not."

There is also a cup of this description, closely resembling the Vintners', represented in Du Sommerard's *Arts au Moyen Age*, chap. xv. plate 1, fig. 1.

TWO LOVING CUPS and COVERS, of silver-gilt, each 17 inches high, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, on baluster stem, and round foot, and finished with a frosted surface. Each cup is inscribed round the lip,—“*The Gift of Sr Thomas Bloodworth, Knt. and Ald. of y^e Citty of London, to y^e Worshipfull Company of Vintners, 1682.*” Each cup weighs 49 oz. 18 dwts. The plate marks on the cover are the lion passant, and leopard's head, and the Court-hand letter Q of the year 1653. On one cup is a Roman capital H, with the head of George III., looking to the right, the lion passant, and small leopard's head; it would appear therefore, that this cup was, from some cause, re-stamped in the year 1803-4. The front of the bowl is engraved with a shield of two coats of arms, viz.:—Barry of six *argent* and *sable*, in chief three *torteauxes* within a *bordure ermine* for BLOODWORTH; impaling— a chevron *ermine* between three lions passant guardant *or*, for and on the opposite side is the crest of Bloodworth, viz.:—On a wreath a naked arm guttée de sang holding a wreath of laurel leaves. Sir Thomas Bloodworth, who was Lord Mayor in 1665, was one of the persons who were to be created by Charles the Second Knights of a new Order, to be called “The Royal Oak,” but the idea was given up.

A tall STANDING CUP and COVER, silver gilt, 24 inches high, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. The bowl, foot, and cover are ornamented in repoussé work of pomegranates, tuns, and foliage. The cover terminates in a pierced obelisk, resting on four griffins and scrolls; on the apex, probably older than the rest of the cup, is an equestrian figure in armour, intended either for St. George, or for the Patron Saint of the Company, St. Martin. The stem is a baluster, with four griffin-scrolls attached, and standing on a tall bell-shaped foot. The bowl of the cup is inscribed—“*The Gift of Sr Thomas Rawlinson, Kt. and Alderman, Sherive of London and Middlesex, Master of y^e Worshipfull Company of Vintners, Ann Dom. 1687.*” On the bowl two coats of arms are engraved, one of the Company, and the other belongs to RAWLINSON, viz.—



SALT.

Gules, two bars gemelles between three escallops *argent*; and his crest, On a knight's helmet a sterne, or duck, holding an escallop in its beak. Weight of cup 64 oz. 13 dwts.

The next article is a good specimen. It is a Square SALT, silver-gilt, with cover, and is 12 inches high, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches square; on the panels, at the sides, are four female figures, in bold relief, representing Virtues:—1, JUSTICE, with the sword and scales; 2, FORTITUDE, holding in one hand a blazing heart, and in the other a dart, the scales at her feet; 3, TEMPERANCE, pouring from a vessel into a cup; 4, CHASTITY, with a lamb at her feet—all are in landscapes, and at the angles are thern figures. The cornice and foot are boldly moulded and richly embossed. The pedestal rests on four crowned sphinxes, and above the arch of each panel is an escallop. The cover is surmounted by a female figure, standing on a richly-embossed vase, a serpent is coiled round her, and she holds a shield whereon are the Arms of the Company. Underneath is inscribed, —“*Ye gift of Mr. John Powel, Master of the Worpyⁿ Company of Vintners, Anno Dom. 1702.*” The plate mark is the small black letter *m* of the year 1689.

In former times when the different grades of society were more clearly marked than in the present day, the Salt-cellar occupied a prominent place at banquet tables, and its position indicated the relative rank of those who were guests. In early manuscript illuminations the Saler is seen upon the board, and its appearance there is often alluded to by our poets. In the old metrical romance, *King Richard Cœur de Lion*, that chivalrous monarch is present at a banquet given by the King of Almain:—

“The King at meat sat on des (dais),
With dukes and earls proud in press,
The saler on the table stood.”

To “sit below the salt” denoted an inferior position; thus in an old ballad a haughty person addresses one whom he deemed beneath him in rank—

“Thou art a carle of mean degree,
The Salt it doth stand between me and thee.”

So also in many other poetical works we find such allusions; as in Decker, 1604, Massinger, 1632 (*City Madam*), and Cartwright—

“ Where you are best esteem'd,
You only pass under the favourite name
Of humble cousins that sit beneath the salt.”—*Love's Convert*,

A Pair of FLAGONS, SILVER; each is $13\frac{3}{4}$ inches high, tapering, 5 inches in diameter at bottom, bow handles, and holding exactly four quarts, the old measure of the wine-gallon. The inscription, in Italics, is:—“*The Gift of Sr Samuel Dashwood, Knt. and Alderman, Sherive of London and Midlesex, and Master of y^e Worshipp^t Company of Vintners, Anno Dom. 1684.*” The arms of the Company are engraved on each flagon, and those of DASHWOOD, namely, *Argent*, on a fesse double cotised *gules* three griffin's heads erased *or*. The weight of one flagon is 77 oz. 2 dwts., and of the other 75 oz. 19 dwts.

A SILVER TANKARD, $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches high, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, inscribed—“*The Gift of Mr. Tho. Cox, Master of y^e Worpp^t Company of Vintners, Anno Dom. 1706.* Upon it are the arms of the Company, and those of Cox, viz. *Or*, three bars *azure*, on a canton *gules* a lion's head erased *argent*. This tankard is much older than the date of the gift, for the plate-mark, the small black letter *ϵ*, answers to the year 1682. The weight is 48 oz. 10 dwts.

A small MONTEITH, SILVER, 8 inches high, 12 inches in diameter, with lion-handles, scalloped edges, fluted body, and gadrooned foot. It has the arms of the Company, and a coat, *Sable*, three horse's heads erased *ermine*, ascribed to the name of WILLIAMS of Shropshire, and the vessel was “*The gift of Edward Williams, upper Warden of the Worpp^t Company of Vintners, Anno Dom. 1698.*” The weight is 60 oz. 11 dwts.

TWO SILVER SALVERS, each 14 inches in diameter and 5 inches high, with gadrooned edges, and inscribed,—“*The Gift of Sr Bartholomew Gracedieu, Sherive of London and Middlesex, M^r of y^e Worpp^t Com. of Vintners, Anno Dom. 1698.*” There are two coats of arms, one of the Company, and the other, Barry of ten, *argent* and *gules*; these are not the arms of Gracedieu, but are ascribed by Glover to THORNELL. The plate-mark, a

Court-hand *b*, answers to the year 1698. Weight of each salver, 40 oz.

The next articles of plate belong to the eighteenth century.

A large MONTEITH, SILVER, 11 inches high, 14 inches in diameter, with lion-handles, escalloped edges, fluted body, and gadrooned foot; underneath is inscribed in Italics,—“*The Gift of Sr Charles Duncomb Knt. and Alderman An^o Dom. 1702.*” The weight is 123oz. 3dwts. There are two coats of arms; one of the Company, and the other is—Per chevron engrailed *gules* and *argent*, three talbot's heads crased counterchanged; and a crest,—On a coronet a horse's hind leg *sable*, hoof upwards, shod *argent*, being the arms and crest of DUNCOMB.

Another large MONTEITH, SILVER, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches high, and 15 inches in diameter; it is vase-shaped, with leopard-handles and escalloped edges, and weighs 136oz. It is inscribed,—“*The Gift of Sr Gilbert Heathcote Kt. and Alderman, Sheriff of London and Middlesex, and Master of y^e Worshipfull Company of Vintners Ann. Dom'ni 1700.*” There are two coats of arms, vizt. of the Company, and of HEATHCOTE, being—*Ermine*, three pomeis, each charged with a cross *or*.

A two-handled CUP and COVER, SILVER, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter. Round the rim is inscribed,—“*The Gift of Mr. Edw^d Cook, Master of y^e Worpf^l Company of Vintners Anno Dom'ni 1706;*” and a coat of arms, on one side,—viz. *Gules*, three crescents and a canton *or*, for COOKE. On the opposite side are the Arms of the Company, and repeated on the cover.

A SILVER TANKARD, weighing 52oz. 5dwts. with a plate mark the Roman capital letter V, which stands for the year 1735.

Another TANKARD, SILVER, weighing 41oz. 16dwts., and inscribed,—“*The Gift of John Emson Servant to the Worshipful Comp^y of Vintners, 1737.*”

The remaining pieces of Plate belong to the present century, and were the gifts of two respected members to their Company.

FOUR VASES, or Wine-coolers, silver gilt, each 13 inches high and 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, the body much enriched with

foliage, fruit, and birds, in repoussé work. There are two coats of arms, viz. one of the Company, and the motto, *Vinum exhilarat animam*, and the Arms of Kay,—*Argent*, two bendlets *sable*, and his Crest,—a griffin's head erased holding a key in its beak, with the singular motto,—*KYND KYNN KNAWEN KEPPE*, and the inscription,—“Presented to the Worshipful Company of Vintners by John Tanner Kay, Esquire, a Member of the Court of Assistants, 1842.” The same arms, crest, and motto, are borne by the family of Kaye-Lister, Baronets.

A ROSE-WATER DISH and EWER, the gift of Mr. Kay to H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, whose arms are on the vessels; after the Duke's death they were purchased by Mr. Kay, and by him presented to his Company, October 26th, 1843.

Another ROSE-WATER DISH and EWER, which once belonged to H.R.H. the Duke of York, whose arms are on the vessels. They were purchased by Alderman Lucas, and presented by him to the Company, as recorded by the inscription:—“*The Gift of Matthias Prime Lucas, Esquire, Alderman, to the Master, Wardens, and Livery of the Worshipful Company of Vintners, 1827,*” in which year he was Lord Mayor. There are the arms, supporters, and crest of the Company, and the arms of Alderman Lucas, viz. *Ermine*, a fesse engrailed *azure* between six annulets *gules*; and his crest, On a coronet a dragon's head *azure* gorged with a collar charged with three annulets *or*.

A ROSE-WATER DISH, Silver-gilt, 22½ inches in diameter, inscribed,—“Presented to the Worshipful Company of Vintners by Alderman Lucas, the Father of the Company, 1844.” The centre boss is much raised, and the whole is enriched with repoussé work. It has for marks, *AF.* ^{CAL}
DERON.

One article yet remains to be noticed, for, although not plate, it no doubt takes its place as an ornament of the buffet. It is a TUN, of CHELSEA CHINA, ornamented with fruit and grapes painted and in relief; on the top is a seated figure of Bacchus, holding a bunch of grapes; the barrel is supported on a short fluted column, resting on a square pedestal, whereon are figures of Fauns and Satyrs.

ANCIENT TAPESTRY.

The Vintners' Company possess a piece of ancient tapestry, which is one of the greatest curiosities of its kind existing in this country; for, whether manufactured at home or abroad, it was certainly made for an English church in the year 1466.

It has been noticed by the Very Rev. Dr. Rock in his account of Textiles, Embroideries, &c. exhibited in the Loan Collection, A.D. 1862, at the South Kensington Museum;* and he describes it as the Reredos of an altar.† It is now framed and glazed, and measures (within the frame) 6 feet 7 inches in breadth by 3 feet 7 inches in height. It is divided into two compartments or pictures, of equal dimensions; of which, that to the left represents Saint Martin on horseback cutting in two his cloak with his sword to share it with a beggar-man;‡ and that to the right is Saint Dunstan, saying mass, and listening in ecstacy to an

* See the Introduction to the Catalogue, p. cxi.

† A similar "reredos" is explained by Dr. Rock, as an "embroidered hanging for that part of the wall immediately behind an altar, for some church or chantry chapel." Catalogue, p. 255.

‡ The legend of Saint Martin is this: At the age of fifteen he took service with his father, a Knight of the Empire; but, whilst pursuing his military vocation, he was accosted one winter's day, at the gate of the city of Amiens, by a shivering beggar, and with deep commiseration he divided his cloak with him. It was revealed to him in a vision that it was Our Lord himself whom he had thus unwittingly assisted; and he was consequently induced to leave the army for the Church, in which he distinguished himself by his piety, and in the year 374 was consecrated bishop of Tours. He died in 397 at the age of eighty-one. His feast day is November the 11th.

Both scenes of the legend are represented on the two sides of the large circular seal of the priory of St. Martin at Dover. On one side is Saint Martin dividing his cloak to the beggar who stands under the gate of the city; on the reverse St. Martin is lying on his couch, raising his hands in adoration to the vision of his Lord; who, having his right hand in the attitude of benediction, declares, in the words of the inscription placed in the margin

MARTINI VESTE SVM TECTVS PAVPERE TESTE

See engravings in Hasted's History of Kent, fol. 1799, iv. 107; and in the new edition of the Monasticon, Seals of Monasteries of the Benedictine Order, plate xxvi.

angel-choir singing the Kyrie, with additional words, and to an air before unknown. The notation is held on a scroll by two angels dressed in albs, and is no doubt the music to which it used to be sung, and which is still to be found by the name of St. Dunstan's *Kyrie* in the ancient *Missale ad usum Sarum*. Behind the Saint stands a monk clad in an alb, and holding the archbishop's primatial cross. The people in attendance are standing in surprise at the long pause in the service.

From the mention of Ware and Hertford in the inscription attached, Dr. Rock was led to think that the abbey church of St. Alban's might have been that to which this reredos belonged; and that it was actually wrought within the walls of that abbey. But the probability, as will be seen, is that it was made for the cathedral church of Canterbury. The inscription is as follows:*

Orate p̄ animab⁹ Johis bate et Johe uxoris sue viii d̄ Ware
et p̄ dōpno Waltero hertford filio erūdē Monacho hui⁹ ecclie
año dñi M^occccxvj.

The date is worked in colours, now not easily discernible, above the other two lines, on the right.

Now, Walter Hertford is known to have been a monk of Christchurch, Canterbury. He became so about the year 1427, and he died about the year 1475, being at his death sub-prior.† His name occurs with that of John Goldwell, as deputed by Thomas the prior and his chapter on the 8th April 1454 to present a petition to the King's council praying for a *congé d'elire* to fill the vacant see upon the death of archbishop Kempe.‡

* The inscription is of course in the ordinary black-letter text of the period; but, for want of contractions in that character, we represent it best as above given. The date is worked in just above the previous portion of the inscription, in colours not at first easily discernible.

† These dates are derived from a list of monks, contained in a MS. of the church of Canterbury (Todd's Catalogue D. 12); the title *Walterus Hertford supprior* occurring in the obituary. I am indebted for these particulars to the Rev. J. C. Robertson, Canon of Canterbury. (J. G. N.)

‡ Cotton MSS. Titus E. vi. 274. This is the original act of council, and bears the autograph signatures of eight spiritual and fourteen temporal lords. It is edited by Nicolas, Proceedings of the Privy Council, vi. 170.

The name of his father John Bate is also upon record. He was Clerk of the Parliament, enjoying a yearly annuity of 40*l.* per annum;* and he appears to have held that office from 1436 to 1450, for his name occurs as one of the triers of petitions for the Commons throughout that period.† As one of the clerks of the Chancery he was present in the priory at Coventry on the 11th Oct. 1456, when William Waynfflete, bishop of Winchester, received the great seals from his sovereign after they had been surrendered by archbishop Bouchier;‡ and the seals were placed in their bags, which were sealed up with the new Chancellor's signet, by the same John Bate.

Though the parents of Walter Hertford were living at Ware when the tapestry was made, it is probable they had removed thither from the county-town, from which, as the place of his birth, the monk Walter took his surname, as was then customary with ecclesiastics.

The conjunction of pictures of the two saints, Martin of Tours and Dunstan of Canterbury, in a reredos made for the cathedral church of the latter city, is readily accounted for. A little church in the outskirts of Canterbury, which is dedicated to Saint Martin, is reputed to have been the first Christian church founded in this kingdom. There was also an altar dedicated to Saint Martin in the cathedral church, as well as one dedicated to Saint Dunstan.

The figures forming the congregation at Saint Dunstan's mass are (as Dr. Rock has observed) "not only of large proportions, but remarkably well drawn;" and they exhibit excellent examples of civil costume in the middle of the fifteenth century.

Dr. Rock has further added the following remarks:

"As a piece of English wrought tapestry this reredos may fairly challenge for itself the place next to that beautiful production of English hands, but of a somewhat later period, to this day seen covering one end of St. Mary's Hall, Coventry. That the monks

* Rotuli Parl. vol. v. p. 317.

† Ibid. iii. 401; iv. 3, 66, 128, 141, 171, 210.

‡ Rymer, *Fœdera*, &c. xi. 384; Nicolas, *Proc. Privy Council*, vi. 360.

in England followed, among other decorative arts, that of 'imbrothering,' we know from the record we have already given of Wolstrobe monastery. Doubtless the word as then understood was a wide one, and meant tapestry, though done by weaving, as well as needle-work. As the Coventry tapestry was in all likelihood wrought in that city itself, and by the monks or nuns there, so this piece may have come from the workshops of the great monastery of Saint Alban's, always celebrated for its schools of art. One of the finest and largest pieces of old tapestry* now in France, in the cathedral of Aix en Provence, was carried thither from this country, and was originally made for and used to be hung around the choir of Canterbury cathedral, and there is every reason for believing it was worked in England."

On such a question the opinion of Dr. Rock must have great weight. Otherwise it might be supposed that so fine a work as this at Vintners' Hall had proceeded from the looms of Arras or Tournay, or some other of the manufactories of Flanders. However, its interest as a dated work made for an English church is but little impaired by these considerations.

It has not been ascertained at what time this piece of tapestry came into the possession of the Vintners' Company; though it is obvious that it did so owing to its representing their patron Saint Martin performing the act by which he is chiefly commemorated.

A small engraving of it, by J. Royce, was published in the Gentleman's Magazine for June 1783, which affords a general idea of its design, and of its perfect state of preservation, but none whatever of its merits as a work of art, which are very considerable.

JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS.

* The tapestry to which Dr. Rock alludes consists of as many as twenty-six pieces, or pictures, nine of which have been published by M. Achille Jubinal in *Les Anciennes Tapisseries Historiées*, Paris, 1838. They are identified as having been the same as once hung in the choir of Canterbury from their not only answering the description preserved by Somner in his *Antiquities of Canterbury*, but also from the date of 1511 inscribed upon them, which Somner likewise records. It is a singular coincidence that two relics of the ornaments of Canterbury Cathedral, similar in character, yet distinct in themselves, should be thus preserved, one at Aix in Provence, and the other at Vintners' Hall.